

Application No. 10/084,966  
Amendment Dated January 29, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of November 12, 2003

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 2 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- When a plunger-type sampler is idle, its plunger normally is retracted and the front of the plunger is rearward from a forward opening from the sampler bore. The forward end of the bore, between the front of the plunger and the opening, is then exposed to and can fill with product from the vessel. If the sampler is idle sufficiently long, product from the vessel may fill, coalesce in and block the sampler bore in front of the plunger. The blockage can then disable the sampler by [[,]] preventing subsequent reciprocation of the plunger to obtain samples. --

Please replace the carryover paragraph from page 6 to page 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The invention also contemplates a method of obtaining samples of a dry material product, which comprises the steps of providing a sampler body having a longitudinal bore and a forward opening from the bore, and positioning in the bore a plunger having a sample receiving recess intermediate forward and rearward ends of the plunger. Included are the steps of extending the plunger forward through the bore to a plunger sample receiving position where the forward end and recess of the plunger are projected out of the bore opening into a body of dry product to receive in the recess a sample of product, then retracting the plunger rearward through the bore opening to a plunger sample delivering position to convey the product sample in the recess to a

sample collecting point, and then removing the sample from the plunger recess at the sample collecting point. When the plunger is at the sample delivering position, its forward end is spaced rearward from the bore opening, so that a length of open bore then exists between the plunger forward end and the opening from the bore, into which product from the body of product can enter and accumulate. To prevent product from entering and stagnating in the length of open bore and potentially clogging the bore, after performance of the step of removing the product sample from the plunger recess, included is the step of moving the plunger forward to a parked position, intermediate the sample delivering and receiving positions, where the forward end of the plunger closes the opening to the bore. The step is then performed of locking the plunger in the parked position. –

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 7 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

– The step of moving the plunger to the parked position comprises moving the plunger to position its forward end close to and preferably at the bore opening, so that the plunger forward end then closes the bore and prevents entry into the bore of dry product from the body of dry product. Each of the plunger extending, retracting and moving steps is manually performed. --

Please replace the carryover paragraph from page 12 to page 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In operation of the sampler assembly 20, and beginning with the sampler assembly in the condition shown in solid line in Fig. 1, a product sample is collected from the vessel 26 by manually moving the handle 80 rightward and forward. This reciprocates the driver 54 and plunger assembly 28 forward to extend the plunger assembly cap 48 and annular sample receiving opening 30 through the sampler body bore 34 and into the main body of dry product in the vessel interior. The handle and plunger assembly are moved rightward until further movement is blocked by engagement of the stop 84 with the forward end 88 of the slot 86 in the guide 60, at which point the plunger assembly is fully in its sample receiving position, as shown in phantom line in Fig. 1 and solid line in Fig. 3. Also at this point, the indicator line 96 on the driver is moved to adjacent the rearward end of the guide 60 to visually inform the operator that the plunger assembly has moved fully to its sample receiving position and that further forward movement is not being prevented because of any obstruction. During forward extension of the plunger assembly, the carrier 50 is moved from behind to in front of a sample outlet port 98 at the sample collection point in the sampler body bore before the plunger assembly cap 48 is moved out of the bore. Then, with full extension of the plunger assembly, the carrier 50 is moved to a position close to the front of, but still within, the bore. In this manner, there an open path is never established through the bore 34 between the interior of the vessel 26 and the outlet port 98, so that dry product is at all times prevented from freely moving from the vessel and through the bore to the outlet port. --